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8 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, SR
FROM : Chief, SR/3
SUBJECT : Termination of Support to Belorussian
National Council and Visit to Washington
of Mikola Abramchik, its President

1. This memorandum is for your information. No action is deemed necessary at this time unless you think it desirable to alert the DCI's office to the possibility that Abramchik may send a letter there or call and request an interview.

2. The BNR in Munich was notified on 27 October that its monthly subsidy of [] would be terminated effective with the December payment. Aside from a complaint that he was given short notice, the Munich representative of the BNR raised no specific problems. Abramchik was in Munich on 6 November and was informed by his representative about the termination of the subsidy. He made no attempt at that time to see the case officer in Munich.

3. We have been informed by Munich that Abramchik will leave Europe on 5 January and that he will come to Washington to protest the unexpected and abrupt termination of the subsidy. His Munich representative assured the case officer that he would commit no security breach and that the "influential contacts" he intends to see will be people already witting of the BNR-U.S. relationship. A check with IO/5 revealed that the New York office of Amcomlib expects him in New York on 10 January. We presume, if this is true, that he is traveling by ship rather than by plane.

4. It is assumed that Abramchik will contact the case officer for the project [] when he arrives in Washington. He will be told at that time that the decision is final and has been approved at the highest level. If he requests to see Mr. McCone, he will be told that this is out of the question. It is possible that he will try on his own or through some third party to communicate with Mr. McCone or arrange for an interview.

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5. After the decision to terminate the subsidy was announced, the Munich representative of the BNR asked that an additional sum of [] be granted to the BNR to prevent it from serious embarrassment and debt in the publishing of two books in Belorussian which can be distributed to Soviet Belorussians. The books had already been contracted for and the BNR could not stop the process. One book, a collection of the works of Alesh Harun, a Belorussian nationalist writer who was purged in the 30's and has been since partially rehabilitated, is already printed. The other book, which appears from what we know of its contents to be the Belorussian originals of work on the political and economic history of Belorussia previously done for the Amcomlib Institute in Munich, is being printed. While we never authorized the BNR to spend any part of its subsidy for the publication of books nor were we ever consulted about the books in question, the field case officer did not immediately turn down the request. Instead, he asked for the manuscripts and copies of the bills or estimates of what remains to be paid, thus giving at least our implicit commitment to consider the request. Had we been informed at the time, this would not have been permitted; but our first information about this came in a teletape dispatch received at the desk on 4 January. Thus, our position with Abramchik will be that, considering that the BNR printed the books in good faith for distribution to Soviet citizens, we will consider giving the [] to the BNR representative in Munich at such time as we shall have determined that the books will constitute effective propaganda and shall have received an agreed-upon number of each book, or a commitment therefor, for our own use. In such case, it will be necessary to request a supplementary allotment for the terminated AEQUOR project if we cannot justify the expense under another project such as AEDINOSAUR.

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[]
Chief, SR/3

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